



WSP Environmental acquires global regulatory tracking operation

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WSP Environmental has expanded its activities through the acquisition of an industry renowned regulatory tracking service.

Based in Melbourne, Australia, the business is best known under its brand name of RegConnect. Andrew Sweatman, founder of this industry renowned tracking service has joined WSP Environmental, expanding the service capability of this leading global environmental consultancy. RegConnect delivers on-line environmental regulatory tracking services for the global electronics and textile industries.

One of RegConnect's most widely-known services is to provide the web-based regulatory tracking service, EIATrack, on behalf of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), through a contract that includes content development, website management and content delivery, in partnership with the EIA and a number of other content providers.

RegConnect's product-related environmental compliance and environmental design tracking services are used extensively in the United States and worldwide by the electronics and textile industries to provide current information on new regulations that could impact on worldwide sales of the products of manufacturers operating in these sectors.

Stuart McLachlan, Global Managing Director for WSP Environmental commented on the acquisition: "These on-line tracking services deliver producers a comprehensive line of sight to future product-related environmental regulations that are critical to their ongoing access to key markets around the world. Our acquisition of RegConnect demonstrates our ongoing commitment to building a world-class global consultancy business and makes us the leading provider of these services worldwide."

Andrew Sweatman, founder and developer of these tracking services, said of the acquisition: "WSP Environmental will help ensure the long-term growth of these regulatory tracking services and broaden our capability to serve global clients in all aspects of product-related environmental compliance and environmental design."

The tracking of product environmental regulations is recognized as an important business priority in the wake of the RoHS (Restriction of use of Hazardous Substances) Directive's multi-billion dollar impact on the electronics industry, as well as the impending adoption of the REACH Directive regulating chemicals more generally.

Chris Hazen, Managing Director of WSP Environmental in N. America, notes the business benefits these tracking services bring to US companies: "New product-related environmental compliance regulations are being proposed and adopted at an increasing rate around the world. They pose an increasing risk to businesses seeking to sell their products globally when the cost of developing those products continues to increase. EIATRACK and ECO-TRACK help US-based product development teams make open-eyed material specification and mechanical design decisions that will more likely be accepted by markets worldwide."



EIATRACK, established in 2001, is available to members of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) and to other manufacturers in the high-tech and electronics sectors. The focus of this service is on regulatory tracking for the electronics industry, covering take-back, batteries, restricted substances, design for environment and packaging. The site can be viewed at www.eiatrack.org.

ECO-TRACK provides global bench-marking on environmental and product safety information for the clothing, footwear and sports equipment marketplace. The service particularly focuses on substances restricted in major eco-labels. The website can be viewed at www.eco-track.com.

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About WSP Environmental

WSP Environmental is a global environmental consultancy, providing a comprehensive range of market-leading, commercially orientated environmental consultancy services across all sectors, including construction, property, automotive, energy, transport and industrial. Since its inception in 1995 the firm now employs more than 700 environmental specialists worldwide.

The firm has international expertise in balancing clients' commercial requirements with the need to satisfy governmental and regulatory control bodies in the area of environmental protection. More information is available at <http://www.wspenvironmental.com>